



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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NPS-Alaska to Host Open Houses

The National Park Service will mark its 100th anniversary in 2016, and is embarking on a series of actions to transform its work around the country.

To start that transformation, the leadership of the Alaska Region of the NPS is beginning a series of public conversations about how the Service should work to accomplish the major themes of the centennial as well as discuss current operations and issues in Alaska's national parks.

The first of several open houses will be from 4-7 p.m. at the Morris Thompson Center on April 17 in Fairbanks. The program will start with NPS Regional Director Sue Masica providing a brief introduction of the Service's operations in Alaska and the nationwide centennial themes of how to better connect people to parks, how to advance the NPS education mission, and how to better preserve America's special places.

Areas will be set up at the Center for each of the three themes, with NPS staff to moderate discussion, record comments and answer questions.

"We're interested in how the Park Service might change to better serve the public as we move towards our second century," Masica said. "We're open to hearing all sorts of suggestions, but we know from other discussions that topics such as climate change, access to parks, predator control, subsistence, a lack of diversity among our employees and visitors, and using technology to a greater advantage are important to Alaskans."

The National Park Service will also hold similar listening sessions during the Great Alaska Sportsman Show in Anchorage. While a pay-to-attend event, the four-day show attracts some 20,000 Alaskans interested in recreational opportunities. The NPS will hold sessions at 6 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m. Saturday, both in the Sullivan Arena.

A second open house will be held in Palmer on May 22 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Depot/Community Center, 610 S. Valley Way.

The NPS also intends to hold open houses this fall in Anchorage and Juneau.

A copy of the national "Call to Action" is available at <http://www.nps.gov/calltoaction/>

Written comments on the plan or NPS-Alaska implementation can be sent to: akr_info@nps.gov or by mail to NPS Regional Director, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501.

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